(iv) Need to set up A Telephone Exchange at Nudadiha, Mayurbhanj District, Orissa.

[English]

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA (Mayurbhanj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Nudadiha G.P. under Kaptipada Block in the Mayurbhanj District, my constituency, in Orissa is having majority of tribal people. Many people of this village have registered themselves for telephone connections long back but they are still to get connections. The people of Nudadiha face acute problem in case of emergencies, as the nearest phone available to the people of Nudadiha is more than 10 km away. There is also a need for a separate Exchange which will facilitate the people.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to immediately sanction telephone connections to the people of Nudadiha and set up telephone exchange urgently, also in Baisinga and Rajrangpur in Mayurbhanj District.

(v) Need to provide better communication facilities in Jahanabad District, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important matter under Rule 377. Jahanabad district was created on 1st August 1986 keeping in view the backwardness of the area and the area being terrorist prone. In this district speed post and fax facilities are not available and many blocks do not have even STD facility.

The Government had given an assurance for providing STD facility in 1996 in Kurtha block but it has not been made functional so far. Karpi block has also not been provided STD facility till now.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to make arrangements immediately for providing speed post and fax facilities in Jahanabad district and STD facility in Kurtha and Karpi blocks.

[English]

(vi) Need for construction of pontoon bridge at Gaiauli Bara Naoghat in Fatehpur district, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to raise the following important matter under rule 377. Thousands of people use daily the chilla pontoon bridge and Dadi pontoon bridge over the Yamuna river between Fatehpur and Banda district of Uttar Pradesh but during the rains, these bridges are dismantled and people face a lot of difficulties. It is necessary to provide pontoon bridges at Ogasi Naoghat, Ichadar, Bmdore Naoghat and Galoli Bara Naoghat and a pucca bridge over the Yamuna at chilla ghat and Dadighat. I request the Central Government to take steps in this direction so as to provide transit facilities to thousands of people of the area.

12.45 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

(vii) Need to review the proposal for providing satellite transmission uplinking facility in India

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, speculation is rife in Indian media circles over the reported visit of Rupert Murdoch to India recently. It is widely reported that Newscorp, owned by Murdoch has mooted a proposal for setting up an uplinking facility for their TV transmission channel in Karnataka. Newscorp is having a substantial investment and operations in Hong Kong and it plans to pull out in time before Hong Kong ceases to be an independent British Protectorate by the end of 1997. Indian media circles - both electronic and print - have expressed apprehensions over this move. Their fears are based on Murdoch proposal which has predominant commercial overtones, and the track record of his concern for our cultural values and sensibilities. This will have adverse impact on the viable operations of existing channels. Starting from electronic media, Newscorp would ultimately stake a claim for print media also which would encourage Doordarshan and other indigenous operations to expand. It is also feared that the uplinking proposal will involve security considerations and hazards.

Unlike Singapore, Hong Kong and Philippines, we have a rigid and regulated uplinking policy. Though these countries have made a fortune by liberalising uplinking facilities, they have strict control over downlinking facilities to preserve their national interest and cultural identity. Presently our downlinking facilities are not regulated. Anti-Indian propaganda is being beamed into India by overseas satellites.

The proposal envisages leasing out an expansive area of more than 8000 acres. Our activist lobbies are certain to take up this matter as a threat to pollute our cultural and ethnic values.

I would, therefore, request the Government to clarify the positioin in this regard.

(viii) Need to include Khatta and Jaunpuri adivasis in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the people of Naugaon and Purola,